

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 108, line 9, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

--(Example 6) Specificity of S68 antibody

For confirming the specificity of S68 antibody prepared in Example 1, the inventors studied whether blocking occurs by a peptide by the same assay as that of Example 3-(3). That is, S68 peptide (amino acid sequence at positions 53 to 68), synthetic polypeptide prepared by the same way as that of Example 1 (amino acid sequence at positions 53 to 58, amino acid sequence at positions 57 to 62, and amino acid sequence at positions 59 to 64), or negative control peptide (SEQ ID NO: 19) (Cys Glu Gly Asn Gly Asn Asn Phe Glu Ser Arg Glu Ala Cys) was diluted to 0, 0.1, 1, and 10 µg/mL and 25 µL of each diluted solution was added to 25 µL of each of 50-fold diluted solutions of the sera obtained from patients suffering from sepsis and the sera of normal individuals to initiate a competitive reaction by mixing with S68 antibody. After that, the levels of low-molecular-weight CD14 bound to S68 antibody without inhibition by any peptide were determined. As a result, as shown in Fig. 3, in both the sera of the normal individuals showing low levels and of patients suffering form sepsis showing high levels, the binding between S68 antibody and the low-molecular-weight protein in blood was inhibited in the case of S68 peptide but not inhibited in the case of other partial peptides (each containing 6 amino acids) and a negative control peptide. The above result confirmed that a protein being detected in blood by S68 antibody is specifically recognized by S68 antibody. In addition, the result also confirmed that the sequence recognized by the antibody requires a length of at least 7 amino acids because the inhibition can not be attained by three kinds of synthetic peptides (the number of amino acids: 6) corresponding to the partial peptides of S68 peptide.--

On page 111, line 9, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- The result found that F1106-13-3 antibody binds to the region corresponding to an amino acid sequence at positions 17 to 26 of SEQ ID NO: 5 (CNFSEPQPDW) from the N-terminal of high-molecular-weight CD14. --

AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE LISTING

IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING

Please replace the Sequence Listing of record with the Substitute Sequence Listing enclosed herewith.